

**OBSERVATIONS ON
DISEASES OF THE LOWER
BOWEL, AND ON THEIR
CURE WITHOUT OPERATION**

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Observations on Diseases of the Lower Bowel, and on Their Cure without Operation by
Andrew Paul

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BY

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TO

G. W. MADDISON, Esq.,

OF PARTNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

DEAR SIR,

Allow me thus publicly, in behalf of suffering humanity, to thank you for the encouragement you have given me in the prosecution of another Edition of this Work.

Though aware that, in dedicating it to you, I may be stepping out of the strict bounds of professional etiquette, I am, nevertheless, not insensible how much the publicity of any new Theory or mode of treatment may be advanced, aided, as mine has hitherto been, by a spirit of philanthropic zeal, such as you yourself have evinced, in promulgating the benefits which, individually, it has been your good fortune to experience.

The principles and the practice which it contains being now matured, I take the liberty of dedicating it to you; not only as a token of the respect I entertain for your private worth, but as a medium through which to convey

to you the grateful acknowledgments of many an afflicted sufferer, to whom, as to yourself, relief has been afforded.

With the most sincere wish that you may long live to enjoy the blessing of renewed health thereby afforded you,

Believe me,

DEAR SIR,

Your obliged and faithful Friend,

ANDREW PAUL.

Upper North-place, Mecklenburgh-square,
LONDON, June 1853.

PREFACE

TO

THE SEVENTH EDITION.

SCARCELY three years have elapsed, Reader, since a former Edition of several hundred copies of this Work issued from the Press.

The still prevailing frequency of these diseases—for increasing they are both in magnitude and in number—must be looked upon as a proof, not so much of indulgence in luxurious habits by that class of society most prone thereto, as in establishing the fact that two modes of treatment, opposite in their effects, still divide the Profession.

Added to remarks already made in former Editions, it has been my object in the present one to lay before the afflicted an analysis of a vast number of cases, which, during the last three years, have come under treatment, and have been carefully noted; and, if *numbers* be any criterion as to the respective merits of operation, or its opponent, the palliative plan of treatment, to leave the

question at issue entirely to your discernment; from such data you will draw your own conclusions.

As the cure of these Maladies, when once established, becomes the exclusive province of the Surgeon, so the *prevention* of disease ought to be the consideration of mankind at large, as by *aiding*, so as not to *interfere* with, Nature's functions, every individual, be he ever so uninformed, can with certainty anticipate and prevent disease.

With a view to this object, the present Edition is both for popular and for professional perusal. The additional hints given are not founded on any preconceived theory, but are solely dictated by experience; and however strong the professional tide may *still* set in favour of operation, I am nevertheless convinced that, ere long, operation will give way to milder means; and that, eventually, few or no cases will meet the Surgeon's eye, wherein Patients—once, twice, or thrice the victims of operation, and worn out by pain, depletion, despondency, and suffering—fly from one medical man to another in pursuit of relief. What a caricature on operative surgery are nine tenths of the cases which daily present themselves under the foregoing circumstances! "*Principiis obsta*" is a maxim in no one class of diseases so strictly in point. Unfortunately, however, from the delicacy of the subject, these diseases, at first merely local, make such inroads on the constitution, long ere advice is sought for, as to require weeks, nay months, of persevering patience to subdue them.

In the detail of cases selected from near a thousand ex-

amples of some one form of these diseases, I have availed myself of those best calculated to show the inefficient aid afforded by operation, though subsequently yielding to milder means; and have illustrated, by drawings, cases of Piles, and of Prolapsus, all unsuccessfully operated on: a reference to which will at once exhibit to you, reader, the extent to which these diseases reach.

True, "there are few maladies upon which so much has been written;" if, however, we take a view of scientific subjects in general, we shall find that those only which admit of doubt have *most* said about them. Volumes containing the opinions of writers, varying according to the ideas each may entertain, issue from the Press. But, reader, you will mark the consequence—truth is eventually arrived at. So it is with every subject which for years divides the medical world. Were a Dictionary of Medicine or Surgery opened, each article, whether *doubtful* in theory or in practice, will be found to occupy *pages*. Why? Because the *true* nature of the Disease, and the proper treatment thereof, have yet to be ascertained. Doubt gives rise to reflection, and the latter to action. A spirit of professional philanthropy is aroused from witnessing the sufferings, mental as well as bodily, which perchance may be the lot of one's nearest and dearest friend; this it is which stimulates to inquiry, and which at length leads to improvements in our art, beneficial to society at large.

And if, in my endeavour to bring before the reader all the features of these most distressing diseases, I may be thought too minute, the observation of a deceased author,

justly distinguished in his own country, France, as throughout the world for his able Treatise on the subject, is, I conceive, sufficient apology. "J'ose croire néanmoins," says Montègre, "que ce sujet est seulement fatigué, mais "non épuisé," and again, "rien n'est encore plus obscure "que l'étiologie générale, et plus difficile que le traitement "des Hemorrhoides."